

Some notes from here and there:

Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the American intelligence effort, came to town last week to meet with some of our local leaders. Turner is a fine-looking, candid intelligence chief who is trying to give a better public image to the American

Turner is convincing on two counts. First, he gets across that although intelligence may not be as American as cowboys, our intelligence service is good and can only be compared to the Russians. Adm. Turner's reasons are simple. He says that only the United States and Russia have the fabulous hardware like satellites and other devices that can accumulate the important secret data upon which good intelligence decisions can be made. The British and the Germans may be good at intelligence, but Turner says only the Americans and the Russians possess the technology to do it thoroughly in today's world.

Secondly, Turner conveys that the days when intelligence was used to spy on internal political organizations have definitely come to an end, thus concluding the era when Presidents Johnson and Nixon seemed to think our intelligence arm should also help an incumbent to stay in office.

Most of what Adm. Turner said was off the record. But he presented enough hard information to indicate that, although we can never know everything (as in Iran), we still have a first-rate intelligence service, better than any other in the world.